F. IX. c
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A

TREATISE

ON THE

VENEREAL ROSE.

A

TREATISE

ON THE

VENEREAL ROSE;

COMMONLY TERMED

GONORRHOEA VIRULENTA:

CONTAINING

A simple, safe, and certain Method of Cure,

WITHOUT THE USE OF

MERCURY.

By WILLIAM BUTTER, M. D.

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THE SECOND EDITION.

Et Caussæ quoque æstimatio sæpe morbum solvit. CELSUS.

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THE PREFACE.

IN the following pages I have deſtroyed one of the props of Mercileſs Impoſture by giving a ſuitable definition and deſcription of the Venereal Roſe, by elucidating its true nature, and by adapting thereto a method of cure ſimple ſafe and certain without a chance for any of the bad conſequences that have hitherto ſo frequently occurred in practice. I ſay without a chance for any of thoſe conſequences provided that the patient can ſtrictly conform to the rules laid down.

It is worth notice that no recourſe is had to Mercury for the Venereal Roſe or for any of its Complications remarked upon in this work.

I am

I am of opinion that much misery might be prevented by using Mercury even as a general medicine in very few cases; Antimony on the same principle in no case whatever; and for the Venereal Rose no injections whatever.

An Appendix is added for the sake of ascertaining the cure of the Venereal Rose extracted chiefly from my publication on the Kinkcough.

GROSVENOR STREET,
June 11, 1799.

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A TREATISE

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CHAPTER I.

Of the Synonymes; the Definition; the Deſcription; and the Prognoſtick of the Venereal Roſe.

§ 1. *The Synonymes.*

Gonorrhoea Impura. *Cullen.* Synops. Noſolog. gen. 121. ſpec. 2.

Gonorrhoea Syphylitica. *Sauvages.* Noſolog. Method. Claſs IX. gen. 30. ſp. 4.

Dyſuria Venerea. Ejuſdem. Claſs IX. gen. 27. ſp. 4.

Gonorrhoea Syphylitica. *Sagar.* Syſt. Morbor. Symptom. Cl. v. Ord. iv. gen. 31. ſpec. 5.

Gonorrhoea Virulenta. *Aſtruc* de Morb. Vener. Lib. 3. cap. 1.

Gonorrhoea Virulenta Sicca. Ejuſd. Lib. 3. cap. 3.

The Virulent Gonorrhoea or Clap of moſt Britiſh writers.

Eryſipelas, the name given by the Greeks to that kind of inflammation, a ſpecies of which we are about to treat, alludeth to its ſpreading tendence, as well as to its colour: From this laſt quality ſome of the modern nations of Europe have alſo aſſigned it a name, calling it Roſa or the Roſe; which ſeems ſo well adapted, that it ought, in my opinion, to ſupplant a very inapplicable one, though in common uſe, the St. Anthony's Fire. I therefore add, as a new ſynonyme of the diſeaſe now to be conſidered,

The

The Venereal Roſe.

§ 2. *The Definition.*

The Venereal Roſe may be defined an eryſipelatous or diffuſed inflammation of the paſſage for generation, commonly productive of a conſtant purulent diſcharge, and always ariſing from infectious intercourſe.

I have ſaid commonly productive of a diſcharge, becauſe now and then it occurs without any diſcharge at all; like any other ſpecies of the Roſe that I am acquainted with. It muſt, however, be allowed, that no other ſpecies of the genus is ſo ſeldom without an excretion.

§ 3. *The Deſcription.*

The Venereal Roſe uſually begins in four or five days, and ſometimes in a few hours, but ſeldom later than eight or nine days

after infection. A heat of urine commonly precedes the running for a day or leſs; though ſometimes the latter is the firſt ſymptom. The diſcharge at the beginning is thin, colourleſs, and in ſmall quantity: but it ſoon increaſes in quantity; and at the ſame time acquires more conſiſtence and ſome colour. It is generally of a thin creamy conſiſtence and colour. It is often whitiſh: ſometimes it is greeniſh; and ſometimes of various colours. It is always fetid. It is generally moſt copious when the patient is warm in bed. The colour of this running, whether freſh or dryed upon linen, continues the ſame; and hath little more effect in ſtiffening the cloth than if it had been water.

In a few days after this diſorder hath commenced, it is attended with frequent painful erections, called Chordee, from the corded ſenſation that the patient complains of for the time, as well as from the part affected being

being drawn at thoſe times, when this ſymptom is at the worſt, into a certain curved appearance tending downward. Sometimes thoſe erections, though equally painful, are attended with no incurvation. Erections, as often as they happen, aggravate, for ſome hours, all the other ſymptoms of this diſeaſe: and ſometimes the running is then ſtreaked with blood. At ſuch times an hemorrhage from the urethra now and then happens.

The Venereal Roſe is generally at the worſt in a week: the running is then copious, though unequally ſo; the pain on making water is great, giving a hot or ſcalding, accompanied with a ſtrait ſenſation; and the chordee is ſevere, coming chiefly when the patient is warm in bed, or when he is heated by exerciſe or intemperance. The yard is alſo ſwelled. The whole glans is redder than natural: and that part of it which terminates the urethra is ſwelled, inflamed, more

dilated, and very painful to the touch. The whole ſeat of the diſeaſe is tender to the touch; though ſome parts of it are more ſo than others: but the chief tenderneſs is under the bulbous extremity of the yard, where ſome hardneſs is alſo felt; and here it is where the pain and heat are chiefly felt from the paſſing of the urine.—This is the ſtate of the ſymptoms when the Venereal Roſe is at the height.

Sometimes, beſide the more common ſymptoms as mentioned above, the patient complains of inguinal pains, and of pains of the teſticles, and of their containing bag, called *Scrotum*, and even in the yard itſelf, eſpecially when ſwelled, from the middle toward the glans.

Thoſe pains of the yard are ſometimes conſtant; at other times they intermit, but irregularly. They are deſcribed by the patient as aching, ſometimes as burning, and ſome-

ſometimes as ſhooting pains; and ſometimes they convey an idea of numbneſs. They are in general not fixed; for they are commonly in the body of the yard and in the urethra by turns. They are neither affected by the touch nor by the paſſing of the urine. The running, however, is always more during thoſe pains. The ſwelling of the yard is alſo increaſed by the pains.

The inguinal pains are ſometimes accompanied with a ſlight enlargement of the ſmall glands ſeated there.

In this diſeaſe, as it has hitherto been deſcribed, the pulſe is calm, provided that the patient is otherwiſe is good health.

But ſometimes there is pain of a fixed nature, which is ſituated in the ſpace between the anus or fundament and the teſticles; which ſpace is known by the technical term

Perinæum. This pain is at all times troubleſome; but particularly ſo when the patient walks, or ſits, or when he makes water. While ſitting, he is obliged to reſt on one hip that he may avoid preſſure on the part affected, which would give exquiſite pain. The pain from making water is ſtill worſe juſt after it is made.

It likewiſe hath happened, that the patient complains of hardneſs and ſevere pains of the belly, from the navel down, with an almoſt total ſuppreſſion of urine. Theſe ſymptoms are alſo attended with ſevere pain in the ſmall of the back: and the patient, even in bed, can only recline backward and in a half erect poſture.

The Venereal Roſe is alſo ſometimes accompanied with ſwelling and inflammation of the teſticles and ſcrotum, and ſometimes with the pox.

In

In each of theſe caſes except the laſt the pulſe is always quick, and the ſkin warmer than natural.

Having thus given a deſcription of the Venereal Roſe from the beginning to the height, I ſhall now relate the progreſs of its decline till it be quite removed.

The ſwelling of the yard and unnatural redneſs of the glans are the firſt ſymptoms that go off. The pain and ſtraitneſs on making water, and all the other pains next gradually diſappear; the chordee next, which at laſt is ſometimes attended with a ſenſe of ſtiffneſs inſtead of pain: and the running becomes daily leſs, acquiring at the ſame time leſs and leſs fetor, more and more conſiſtence, and one uniform colour, generally white. At length the running becomes very inconſiderable, inodorous, tranſparent, colourleſs, and clammy like the white of an egg.

From

From the time that the diſeaſe begins to decline, the matter when dryed upon linen hath a twofold appearance: the main body of the ſtain preſerves, as uſual, the colour of the freſh running; while the ſurrounding margin is colourleſs, and more particularly ſtiffens the linen. This margin, from a very inconſiderable beginning, gradually increaſes, and the central ſpot diminiſhes in the ſame proportion, till toward the cloſe of the diſeaſe it entirely diſappears; when the running cannot be ſaid to ſtain the linen, becauſe it is only diſtinguiſhed on the cloth by exhibiting a ſtarched appearance. This remark is juſt in thoſe who have had the diſeaſe ſeldom; otherwiſe the running in general continues muddy to the laſt. At the time when the diſcharge is colourleſs, it is become very inconſiderable and ſoon ceaſes entirely.

An itching attends the decline of the diſeaſe on erections; and alſo on the paſſing of the

the urine, except when a good deal is made, and then a ſoreneſs is felt toward the laſt. There is generally no ſoreneſs now from preſſure any where in the courſe of the urethra. A more than uſual frequency of the urine likewiſe now and then takes place; and which ſometimes ſubſiſts for a little after every other ſymptom of the diſeaſe is gone.

In women the Venereal Roſe begins in much the ſame time after infection. There is a redundant moiſture and an itching ſenſation at firſt. Soon after the running becomes copious, with the uſual appearances of colour and conſiſtence; and accompanied with pain, heat, and ſwelling of the parts affected, which are aggravated by walking.

Here alſo the ſame progreſs toward recovery is obſervable as in the other ſex. The pains, heat and ſwelling go off firſt; the pain

from

from making water next; and laſtly the running, which gradually terminates with the ſame appearances as have been already deſcribed in the men.

§ 4. *The Prognoſtick.*

The Venereal Roſe always admits of a ſafe and eaſy cure. The danger or the difficulty ſolely ariſes from improper treatment.

I now proceed to inquire into the nature and ſeat of the Venereal Roſe; and to explain its ſymptoms.

CHAP. II.

Of the Nature, Seat, and Symptoms of the Venereal Roſe.

§ 1. *Of its Nature and Seat.*

GONORRHOEA, the name by which the Venereal Roſe hath been longeſt and moſt generally known, hath proved an unfortunate deception as to the nature of the diſeaſe, and, of courſe, as to the method of curing it. The definitions generally given by authors have not had a better effect. A few have been more correct on this head; but without deriving any advantage from their accuracy. Of this number is Doctor Aſtruc, who, though he admits of inflammation, ſtill ſupports the original doctrine, that the Venereal Clap is the ſeminal diſcharge increaſed and vitiated by the infectious cauſe. His deſcription

tion of the diſeaſe is of a piece with the theory: neither are drawn from juſt obſervation. And his method of cure muſt prove a greater nuiſance to a patient than even the diſeaſe itſelf: but to return.

Other authors ſtate, that the Venereal Roſe is an ulcer. On this ſubject there are two opinions; ſome deriving this ſuppoſed ulcer from an immediate and actual eroſion of the part affected by the venereal miaſms; while others ſay, that the ulcer is the conſequence of inflammation occaſioned by thoſe miaſms. Theſe opinions labour under difficulties which their ſeveral authors or abettors could never ſolve: nor is it to be wondered at, ſince they are flatly contradicted by the moſt accurate inveſtigation of the part affected, in ſuch as happened to die while labouring under the Venereal Roſe. Morgagni has proved, that in ſuch caſes there is a more than natural redneſs and a redundant moiſture

ture in the urethra; but that no ulceration is ever ſeen*. Thoſe facts, while they overturn the doctrine of ulcer, render incontrovertible the one which I am now to advance. I muſt, however, remark, before I proceed further, that even the learned and ingenious Noſologiſts have loſt ſight of their uſual accuracy on this head, by giving way to the generally received opinion, in ranking the Venereal Roſe with the fluxes, and not, as it is by nature, with the inflammations. Nor is this all; for, as a natural conſequence of that overſight, the ſimple Venereal Roſe becomes two diſeaſes, and ſo very diſtinct, that they barely belong to the ſame claſs! namely, the Venereal Dyſury and the Venereal Clap.

The Venereal Roſe is either ſimple or complicated. It is known to be a ſimple

* J. B. Morgagni de ſedibus et cauſis morborum. Epiſtol. xliv. Art. 3, 4, 5.

diſeaſe,

diſeaſe, when it is attended with no other ſymptoms than ſuch as are peculiar to the nature and ſeat of it. When other ſymptoms occur, they only give riſe to complication and not to any diſtinct ſpecies.

The ſimple Venereal Roſe is an affection of the urethra or urinary paſſage in men, and chiefly of the vagina, or paſſage to the uterus or womb in women. It is an eryſipelatous inflammation, ariſing from contact with an infectious cauſe. This inflammation generally extends as far as the middle of the urethra; and is now and then without any diſcharge; but moſt commonly it does diſcharge, and conſtantly, from the whole or the greateſt part of its ſurface, a purulent matter, which gives riſe to the popular name of the diſeaſe.

A common eryſipelas on any part of the body is uſually attended with an excretion.

This

This in ſound habits is ſerous; and not being able to penetrate the cuticle or ſcarfskin, ſeparates it from the cutis or true ſkin, and thus forms veſicles or bladders of clear water. However in cachectick habits a purulent inſtead of a ſerous diſcharge hath frequently been obſerved.

The eryſipelas of which we are treating diſcharges pus inſtead of ſerum for two reaſons: firſt, the cauſe is malignant; ſecondly, it appears that the part affected of itſelf diſpoſes the eryſipelatous excretion to be purulent. An evident proof of this occurs not ſeldom in practice. Even in the moſt healthy habits, for example, where cleanlineſs is not attended to, a white curdy matter is apt to gather between the prepuce or foreſkin and the neck of the glans, which, by its acrimony, occaſions a degree of inflammation attended with an itching and a purulent diſcharge. In this caſe the parts are inflamed

and thickened; but not the ſmalleſt appearance of ulceration or excoriation is ever perceived. What is called the Benign Clap is another inſtance of this purulent tendency.

Having thus explained the origin and the nature of the running, all the ſymptoms are eaſily accounted for on the ſame principle as under.

§ 2. *Of the Explanation of its Symptoms.*

When the inflammation is in its infancy, the diſcharge is thin and colourleſs like that of the common eryſipelas: but it ſoon acquires more and more colour and conſiſtence till it become, when the inflammation and conſequent malignity are at the height, quite purulent.

The pain and heat on making water are what muſt be expected from a ſharp fluid paſſing along an inflamed part.

The

The ſenſe of ſtraitneſs and ſmallneſs of the ſtream on making water point out that the urinary paſſage is diminiſhed from the ſides of that canal being thickened by the inflammation. This thickneſs is alſo demonſtrable by the caſe mentioned in the preceding ſection where the diſcharge is from the neck of the glans and the inſide of the prepuce. Beſide, there is a further confirmation by M. Littre, who, on diſſecting the body of a man who had died while labouring under the Venereal Roſe, found the urethra inflamed, thickened, harder than natural, and containing a redundant humour*.

The unequal tenderneſs of the urethra is chiefly owing to ſome parts of it from ſtructure being more ſuſceptible of irritation than others.

* Obſervations ſur la Gonorrhée, dans les Memoires de l'Academie Royale des Sciences pour l'année 1711.

The chordee originates from pain taking place in the whole courſe of the urethra and which gradually increaſes till the erection is completed, when it is at the worſt; and then alſo affects the whole body of the yard.

The curvature and extreme pain of the yard during the chordee are owing to the *corpus cavernoſum* or main body of it yielding but with much difficulty to the agonizing contraction of the urethra. As a proof of this, the pain is inſtantly relieved by bending the yard downward and backward and ſo aſſiſting the incurvation; when the chordee alſo quickly ceaſes. Even when erections are painful without incurvation the bending of the yard will be attended with the ſame good effects. From this it is proved that the *corpus cavernoſum* ſuffers merely from ſympathy with the urethra; and further that, when the pain without curvature is equally as ſevere as with it, the ſympathetick affection is become

become ſo ſtrong as to be able to counter-balance the inflammatory irritation of the urethra.

The heat of the bed or intemperance adds to the irritability of the inflamed excretories, and of courſe quickens their motions which muſt increaſe the running.

Erections not only increaſe the running, but ſometimes by their violent action on the blood veſſels force the blood itſelf through the morbid excretories either in an oozing ſtate or profuſely as a hemorrhage.

The colour of the running being various and its conſiſtence incoherent though ſeemingly thick are owing to the humours naturally balſamick being broke down by the venereal poiſon.

So much for the ſigns of exiſting inflammation.

When the inflammation is gone a morbid ſenſibility remains. During the continuance of this the chordee is attended with a ſenſe of ſtiffneſs inſtead of pain; and the paſſing of the urine now become free creates only an itching, except when a good deal is made and then a ſenſe of ſoreneſs ſucceeds from the longer continuance of the titillating cauſe.

The frequent calls to make water ariſe from the neck of the bladder partaking of morbid irritability through ſympathy with the urethra.

The different appearances of the running upon linen are the ſeveral gradations from malignity to the ſound balſamick ſtate.

When the diſcharge is become thus ſound and balſamick and the urine free we are certain that the whole ſeat of the diſeaſe, whatever

whatever be the ſtructure, is now alſo ſound. And no ſtricture or caruncle can ever occur from ſuch a cure.

Having thus explained whatever relates to the Venereal Roſe as a ſimple diſeaſe, I now proceed to inquire into its complications.

CHAP. III.

Of the Complications of the Venereal Roſe.

It is mentioned in the preceding chapter that all ſuch ſymptoms as do not correſpond with the nature and ſeat of the Venereal Roſe are to be conſidered as pertaining to complication. On this principle the Venereal Roſe is liable to various complications. Theſe according to the preceding deſcription are,

Firſt, pains fixed or moveable in the yard with their concomitant ſymptoms.

Secondly, fixed pain in the *Perinæum*.

Thirdly, hardneſs and ſevere pain at the bottom of the belly with violent dyſury.

Fourthly, ſwelling and inflammation of the teſticles and ſcrotum, and

Fifthly, the pox.

The

The four firſt complications demand particular attention as being intimately connected with our ſubject. I ſhall therefore briefly unfold what I take to be the nature of each, and according to the order in which they are mentioned.

The pains in the yard are ſpaſmodick, and the conſequence of a morbid affection of the firſt paſſages acting on this weakened organ. It is from thoſe pains chiefly that I have ventured to decide on the extent of the main diſeaſe, not doubting that they equally affect the whole of it. Beſide, Morgagni has obſerved in one of his diſſections that the moiſture ſuperabounds only ſo far in the urethra*. The ſwelling of the yard and painful inguinal lumps ariſe from the irritation excited by thoſe ſame pains whether moveable or fixed.

* Lib. citat. epiſtol. 44. art. 7.

The

The acute pain in the *Perinæum* depends on an inflammation, which is ſaid to have its ſeat ſometimes in Cowper's glands and ſometimes in the Proſtate gland. Indeed thoſe caſes may happen either ſeparately or conjunctly: but as ſuch diſtinctions cannot in my opinion be of any uſe either in theory or practice, I wiſh to denominate this diſeaſe by the Proſtate gland alone as being the moſt conſiderable. This inflammation commonly called phlegmonous, I call conſtricted by way of diſtinction from the eryſipelatous or diffuſed inflammation: becauſe, ſince thoſe inflammations are intended by nature for the ſame end, to wit, an excretion, they can only differ as to the parts affected. When inflammation falls as in the preſent caſe on a glandular or other confined part, the pain is extreme from that confinement during the preparatory proceſs of the excretory ducts for the purulent excretion; and from the external covering of the part affected

affected being not only inflamed but more and more ſtretched from its accumulating contents. This purulent or inflammatory excretion commonly called ſuppuration is Nature's effort to, prevent a mortification; being in certain caſes her way of procuring a reſolution of the inflammation by thus breaking down and expelling the immediate obſtructing cauſe and ſo reſtoring the fluids that had thereby been impeded to their proper circulation.

The third complication, namely, the hardneſs and ſevere pain at the bottom of the belly accompanied with violent dyſury are ſymptoms of inflammation at the neck of the bladder. The hardneſs chiefly ariſes from the bladder being over diſtended with urine; and the ſevere pain, partly from the ſame cauſe and partly from the inflammation at its neck.

The

The fourth complication, to wit, the ſwelling and inflammation of the teſticles and ſcrotum, ariſes partly from vicinity to the Venereal Roſe, but more eſpecially from the parts latterly affected not having been properly ſupported from the beginning of that primary diſeaſe.

It is a pleaſure to obſerve that none of the preceding complications are venereal; that bad management is almoſt ever their occaſional cauſe; and that the vicinity of the main diſeaſe is as often no more than the prediſpoſition. I ſay it is a pleaſure to be able from repeated experience to make thoſe remarks; as ſurely they ought to be powerful motives with the patient to attend ſtrictly to his medical advice; ſince by ſuch attention all probability of any of the like complications taking place will be obviated.

The fifth complication of the Venereal Roſe is barely mentioned as being ſuch; becauſe the pox does not further come within our preſent plan. At any rate it is a diſeaſe of too much importance to admit of a ſubordinate diſcuſſion.

The means of cure for the Venereal Roſe and its ſeveral benign varieties or complications make the ſubject of the following chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Cure of the Venereal Roſe and of its ſeveral benign Complications.

The common methods of treating the Venereal Roſe having proved to me unſatisfactory, I conſidered it as my duty to look out for more effectual means. And as the celebrated Baron Storck had remarked that the extract of hemlock cured this diſeaſe after having reſiſted all other remedies* I became eager to try its effects in every caſe of the Venereal Roſe without exception that might come under my care, and ſo long as the ſucceſs ſhould warrant my perſeverance. This reſolution I took from my confidence in

* Supplement. Neceſſar. de Cicuta. Corollar. x. Remedium eſt contra gonorrhœum inveteratam rebellem.

whatever

whatever my learned friend aſſerts as a fact; as well as from my own knowledge of the general effects of this medicine in the human body. I began this practice in the year ſeventy-four; and have ever ſince found it far ſuperiour to whatever means have been in common uſe.

I maintain that the extract of hemlock, or more properly according to my form the hemlock-maſs for pills is a ſafe and certain cure for the Venereal Roſe; but that the time requiſite for this cure depends much on the patient's attention to management. When that is correct it proves a cure in a fortnight. Otherwiſe it will take double that time and more to effect a cure.

However this much can be ſaid in favour of hemlock, that even where the cure hath been unneceſſarily protracted it hath had extraordinary good effects in mitigating every

ſymptom

ſymptom of the diſeaſe and in warding complications and every bad conſequence, except ſometimes a gleet.

After what hath been ſaid, it is the leſs to be wondered at when I affirm that, beſide curing the diſeaſe in queſtion, I have never yet ſeen the hemlock-maſs fail to improve at the ſame time the health and ſtrength of the patient when both had been deficient. It has even in ſo ſhort a time as is requiſite for the cure of the Venereal Roſe reſtored the urine to a full ſtream when that had been wanting from the time of a former cure.

As this medicine had never diſcovered to me any direct tonick power I believed that its effects were the more eaſily fruſtrated as above by intemperance of any kind. On this account as ſoon as the inflammatory ſymptoms were gone I began early to combine

combine the hard extract of Peruvian bark with the hemlock, and with such remarkable advantage that I have persisted in the practice ever since; though this improvement is not quite sufficient to baffle very absurd conduct.

What is here said is only applicable to the simple Venereal Rose; for in the cases of benign complication the Peruvian bark can scarce ever be used.

Having prefaced so far, I am now led to particularize the subject in hand.

§ 1. *Of the Cure of the simple Venereal Rose.*

For this disease I prescribe as under.

The patient is to take two hemlock-pills weighing five grains each thrice a day; to wit, at eight in the morning, two in the afternoon, and eight at night. He is to continue this dose while the symptoms abate:

but if little alteration has taken place in three days, on the fourth he is to take three pills thrice a day and for the ſame time; and then on the ſame conditions to perſevere or increaſe the doſe to four pills at the uſual hours for a continuance: becauſe if the diſorder is not by this time very much abated inattention to rules muſt be the reaſon which no increaſe of doſe can rectify. This I ſay from the cleareſt proof; becauſe I have on ſuch an occaſion given triple the doſe here recommended thrice a day with no better nor with the leaſt bad effect.

If the belly be regular no laxative is wanted. In caſe of coſtiveneſs the following pills will be neceſſary.

Take of ſocatorine aloes and hard ſope each a dram. Beat them together into an uniform maſs with a ſufficient quantity of honey; and divide it into twenty-four equal pills. One

One of theſe pills more or leſs ſhould be taken every night ſo as to produce one ſtool a day.

No external means are wanted, except a bag-truſs and the patient's own urine.

The truſs ſhould be uſed from the beginning to the end of the cure. The urine as it paſſes occaſionally anſwers the purpoſe of a fomentation; and better too than any that could be put in its place.

For this end the patient every time he is to make water ſhould ſtretch the prepuce beyond the glans between his finger and thumb while he preſſes its extremity ſoftly together ſo that the urine may in part be impeded in its progreſs out of the body; by which means it will effectually cleanſe the glans, its neck, and the inſide of the prepuce.

Even in the caſe of hemorrhage from the urethra the preceding means of cure are ſufficient; becauſe the hemlock-pills remove the chordee which is the cauſe ſooner than any other medicine that I am yet acquainted with. Indeed in my opinion ſuch a circumſtance need never happen provided that the patient is attentive to rules, and among the reſt to ſit up, if in bed, when the chordee comes, and further to mitigate its violence and ſhorten its duration by aſſiſting the curvature in the manner already mentioned.

As to diet, the patient ſhould have for dinner ſome plain meat with pudding or broth, and ſmall beer for drink; for ſupper, broth or milk with bread; for breakfaſt, tea with bread and butter as uſual; and for a luncheon, broth.—In the intervals the cooling liquids ſuch as gruel and barley water may as far as convenient be uſed for the ſake of increaſing the quantity of the urine and ſo

blunting its acrimony, whereby the hemlock-pills will be aſſiſted in putting a more ſpeedy period to the inflammation.

Wine, ſpirits, ale, and porter may ſurely be left off with hearty good will during the ſhort time that is requiſite for the cure of this inflammatory diſorder.

All other aggravating cauſes ſhould likewiſe be avoided; ſuch as violent exerciſe, indiſcreet expoſure to cold, late hours, hot rooms &c.

When all ſymptoms of inflammation are gone and the cure goes on but ſlowly through accidents that cannot be avoided the ſame means are to be purſued with the addition of an equal proportion of the hard extract of Peruvian bark to the hemlock and of as much of the balſam of Peru as may be neceſſary to make a maſs uniform and

of proper conſiſtence for pills of the uſual weight.

Four of theſe pills are to be taken thrice a day.

Sometimes it is neceſſary for expediting the cure to take twenty drops of the Saturnine Tincture in a glaſs of water with each doſe of the pills.

Toward the concluſion of tedious caſes the cure will be further quickened and confirmed by dipping the yard two or three times a day in cold water, while the patient is perſevering at the ſame time in the uſe of the other means.

§ 2. *Of the Cure of the Diſeaſe complicated with Spaſmodick Pains of the Yard.*

When thoſe ſpaſmodick pains have been fixed, ſevere, and conſtant, the promoting of four

four or five ſtools hath made them ſhift their place, hath abated their ſeverity, and hath even brought them to an intermiſſion. For theſe reaſons, though I know that the hemlock will of itſelf cure this complication, yet it will always be proper to join a laxative with it; becauſe the progreſs of the cure is thereby more comfortable to the patient and alſo ſooner at an end.

Two of the laxative pills therefore are to be given more or leſs every night ſo as to produce two ſtools a day.

The hemlock-pills are to be given progreſſively as in the preceding ſection.

After the pains are gone if the cure ſhould prove tedious the Peruvian bark and balſam ſhould be combined with the hemlock and uſed with the other means as in the ſimple Venereal Roſe.

The laxative pills may now be omitted or juſt taken ſo as to keep the body regular.

The ſame regimen ſhould be obſerved as in the ſimple Venereal Roſe; only the patient ſhould be ſtill more abſtemious as to ſolid food during the complication.

§ 3. *Of the Cure of the Diſeaſe complicated with Inflammation of the Proſtate Gland.*

As this diſeaſe has all the tendencies of any other phlegmonous or conſtricted inflammation, the means of cure ought to be uſed as ſoon as it appears that it may to a certainty be removed by *Reſolution* which will prevent a great deal of miſery that would otherwiſe happen if Nature was left to herſelf; when at leaſt ſuppuration would be the conſequence which for the moſt part ends in a Fiſtula.

Sixteen

Sixteen ounces of blood thus timely taken from the arm will in general greatly abate the pain ſo as to leave no doubt that it ſhall be entirely carried off by the other means employed. If however ſome doubt on this head ſhould remain it will be entirely removed by a repetition of the phlebotomy within twenty-four hours from the firſt operation.

Half an ounce of Polychreſt ſalt is to be diſſolved in a pint of hot water: and a fourth part of it is to be taken warm every ſix hours beginning the day of the firſt blood-letting.

This ſolution is to be repeated in more or leſs quantity every day ſo as always to produce four or five ſtools till the diſorder is removed.

Cut into ſmall pieces and bruiſe four ounces of newly gathered hemlock, and boil it

it in four pints of water for five minutes. Strain the liquor when cold; and then make it ſufficiently hot for uſe.

The part affected is to be fomented for half an hour three or four times a day with flannels wrung out of the above decoction and applied of an agreeable warmth.

After fomenting the part is always to be anointed with ſome of the following application; which conſiſts of half an ounce of camphor diſſolved in half a gill of olive oil.

From the beginning to the end of the cure the patient ſhould ly in bed and live on broth, gruel, barley water &c. abſtaining from all ſolids even bread and from every thing ſpirituous or fermented.

In a few days the cure of this additional diſorder will be effected; when the patient

is

is to return to the means of cure for the ſimple Venereal Roſe.

§ 4. *Of the Cure of the Diſeaſe complicated with Inflammation of the Neck of the Bladder.*

This is a much more violent diſorder than the inflammation of the proſtate gland. Indeed it highly endangers the patient's life. The ſame means are to be uſed in this as in that; but in a greater degree in proportion to the violence of the ſymptoms.

Blood ſhould immediately be taken from the arm in a full ſtream and till the patient begin to faint.

This operation is to be repeated every day to a pound more or leſs according to its effects in moderating the pains and in giving freedom to the urine.

At the ſame time the ſolution of polychreſt ſalt is to be given every four hours that it may operate as a febrifuge both on the blood and on the firſt paſſages ſo as to produce five or ſix ſtools every day.

The whole abdomen from the navel down ſhould be fomented every four hours for an hour at a time; ſhould be anointed all over after each fomentation with the camphorated oil; and ſhould in the intervals be covered with flannel.

The thin cool diet ſhould be ſtill more ſevere even to the excluſion of broth: but the other liquids muſt be taken often and copiouſly till the diſeaſe is on the decline when broth can be added.

A few days will ſhow the good effects of this treatment if timely and ſtrictly practiſed by moderating every ſymptom.

Veneſection

Veneſection ſhould then be laid aſide: and the ſolution with the external means are to be continued though with conſiderable abatement till every ſymptom of the complication is gone. The cure of the primary diſorder is then to be completed.

§ 5. *Of the Cure of the Diſeaſe with Swelling and Inflammation of the Teſticles and Scrotum.*

In this caſe the patient muſt immediately go into bed and continue there till at leaſt the inflammatory ſymptoms are gone.

He muſt live on the thin cool diet abſtaining from every thing ſolid.

The parts affected muſt be wrapped in flannel and ſupported by a bag-truſs, ſo as to be kept as eaſy as poſſible till the cure is completed.

In

In general leſs blood is neceſſary to be taken in this than in ſome of the preceding complications; for as the parts affected yield more readily the ſymptoms are commonly leſs violent. When blood-letting is neceſſary it ſhould be taken from the arm: and leeches are to be applied after to the part affected in number proportionate to the exigence of the caſe.

The ſolution of polychreſt ſalt ſhould be given ſo as to produce two or three ſtools a day; and in the manner above mentioned.

The part affected ſhould be fomented three or four times a day for an hour at a time: and a poultice of bread and milk with oil of hemlock ſhould be applied through the night.

In the intervals of fomenting ſome folds of linen drenched in the ſame oil ſhould always be applied.

The

The hemlock oil is made in the following manner.

Boil half a pound of freſh hemlock cut and bruiſed in a pint of olive oil till it become criſp; then ſtrain off the oil.

The practitioner or patient has here his choice either to uſe this or the comphorated oil. I know from experience that the hemlock-oil is preferable in every caſe whether venereal or not where that with camphor is recommended; and beſide is not offenſive by its ſmell as the other is. On all occaſions therefore I only recommend the camphorated oil till the other can be got.

By the time that the inflammatory ſymptoms are gone the ſwelling will at leaſt be a good deal reduced. The patient may then leave his bed. Beſide the bag-truſs the hemlock-oil is now to be the only topical application;

application; and with which the parts affected are to be kept conſtantly moiſt.

The laxative and hemlock-pills as well as the diet are now to be uſed in the ſame manner as directed for the ſimple Venereal Roſe; which will complete the cure both of the primary and of this accidental diſorder. No caſe of the kind that I have yet ſeen hath been able to reſiſt this treatment.

Having thus finiſhed the hiſtory and the cure of the Venereal Roſe I ſhall in the following chapter conclude with ſome neceſſary remarks that could not ſo eaſily be introduced into the body of the work.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

The venereal compared with the common Roſe.

That I may further eſtabliſh my doctrine concerning the nature of the Venereal Roſe I ſhall now particularly inquire how far this diſeaſe agrees with Eryſipelas in general as to its principal characters.

Firſt then, the Eryſipelas or Roſe always tends to alter the ſtructure of the part affected ſo as to render it in general more liable ever after to the ſame diſeaſe: and returns as often as they occur never fail to enlarge that part more and more. Hence it is probable that the change made in the firſt inſtance is alſo an enlargement though too inconſiderable to be obvious to our ſenſes.

The Elephantiaſis of the Weſt Indies* ſeems to be nothing more than the conſequence of the Roſe. And I have ſeen ſeveral inſtances of the forearms enlarged to double their natural ſize from the ſame cauſe.

In conformity with this we have already eſtabliſhed it as a fact that during the Venereal Roſe the part affected is thickened. In this diſeaſe however the thickneſs entirely goes off with the inflammation through the copiouſneſs of the purulent diſcharge. Of courſe when this is prematurely ſtopped the conſequences often imbitter and ſometimes ſhorten life. A remaining thickneſs from ſuch a cauſe does at times among other inconveniences give riſe to the Roſe whether venereal or not; eſpecially when aſſiſted by the irritation excited by a bougie, an inſtrument in uſe much beyond its merits.

* See Hillary on the Diſeaſes of Barbadoes.

Secondly,

Secondly, the Common Roſe is in general attended with pain which however is very tolerable: and ſometimes this diſeaſe is accompanied with an itching inſtead of pain which is ſcarce tolerable.

The Venereal Roſe is likewiſe attended with very little pain, except on making water. And I have known it attended with an almoſt conſtant intolerable itching which was even aggravated by making water.

Thirdly, the Common Roſe is ſometimes without any diſcharge; but for the moſt part with one; and that moſt commonly ſerous and in no great quantity. However in cachectick habits we have found it purulent and copious.

The Venereal Roſe is now and then without any diſcharge; but for the moſt part with one, which at the beginning is ſerous

and ſmall but ſoon becomes purulent and copious.

Fourthly, the Common Roſe is generally ſpreading from place to place; except in cachectick caſes where I have always found it ſtationary.

The Venereal Roſe is always ſtationary. The ſuppoſed ſpreadings are no part of the main diſeaſe; but complications the conſequences of bad treatment or neglect, as hath been already obſerved.

Fifthly, the Common Roſe is liable to diſappear ſuddenly; and always with danger to the patient. It likewiſe ſometimes appears all of a ſudden and when leaſt expected to the total removal of ſome miſery within one or other of the great cavities.—A lady was troubled with a cough and a pain in the left ſide which affected her breathing. This pain immediately

immediately went off on the appearance of the Roſe near to the part that had been affected.—A perſon juſt recovered of a dyſentery dreamed in the night that a man was pulling out his bowels; and awaked in a great fright. He was then exceeding hot, had a ſhooting pain in his face and a ſevere bearing down as though he wanted to go to ſtool: but on trial he had none. In the morning the lower part of his face was affected with an eryſipelas covered with a crop of clear ſmall puſtules. He was then in other reſpects quite well.

The Venereal Roſe is liable to diſappear ſuddenly: when it is generally ſucceeded by inflammation of the inguinal or proſtate glands, of the teſticles or of the eyes; and ſometimes by that general affection of the whole body called the Pox. The ophthalmy on ſuch an occaſion is ſaid to be ſo violent as to deſtroy that delicate organ before the

means of cure can have time to produce the deſired effect*. I have ſeen the ophthalmy more than once which was doubtleſs venereal: and it was always ſafely cured. In every caſe of this kind the immediate opening of the temporal artery is indiſpenſible. And whoever omits that generous remedy in violent inflammations of the eyes whether venereal or not is liable to much blame: for that operation is not only perfectly ſafe, but gives inſtant relief, and likewiſe ſhortens the cure far beyond any other means that have been yet tried. We have ſeen inſtances of a violent ophthalmy being entirely removed by the time that the bleeding was concluded†. Surely no venereal poiſon can operate ſo ſuddenly as to obviate ſuch a cure!

* Vide Erndtelium apud B. Van Swieten's Comment. in H. Boerh aphoriſmos. Vol. v. 4to. p. 430.

† See improved Methods of opening Arteries, &c.

The

The return of the Venereal Roſe often happens; but with little more good effect than to abate in a degree ſome of the moſt contiguous ſymptoms that had occurred through its diſappearing: which is all that could be expected from a poiſon that had been further introduced into the body.

Sixthly, inflammatory malignity moſt commonly appears under the form of the Roſe. This inflammation is therefore ſometimes infectious.

The Venereal Roſe is always infectious.

Seventhly, in the Common Roſe internal medicines make the indiſpenſible part of the cure. The greateſt ſhare of the inconveniences that have been obſerved in the cure of this diſeaſe have been generally and juſtly attributed to the topical applications. Theſe

when the moſt ſuitable are of weak power; and therefore only a ſecondary help.

In no circumſtances does the Venereal coincide more correctly with the Common Roſe than in theſe.

THE

THE APPENDIX.

Neceſſaries to aſcertain the preceding Cure of the Venereal Roſe.

Of the Powder of Hemlock.

Before the Treatiſe on the Kinkcough was publiſhed this preparation of hemlock had been chiefly preſcribed for internal uſe at Edinburgh. The celebrated Profeſſors of Medicine the late Doctors Cullen and Gregory both told me that as much caution was neceſſary in aſcertaining the doſe of every freſh powder as if it had been a chemical preparation; and that very alarming ſymptoms had ariſen from inadvertence in that reſpect. It is not eaſy to aſſign a reaſon for this ſingularity: perhaps ſome parts of the plant may be more virulent than others; the gathering

gathering of it at different times of the year, or at different ages may probably alſo occaſion a difference; and perhaps all parcels of the herb collected for powdering may not have been freed from impurities with equal care: but moſt probably this diverſity of ſtrength in the different preparations depends in a great meaſure on the different degrees of heat employed in drying the herb previouſly to its being powdered. I know that if hemlock be dryed in the ſhade according to the common rule it will loſe much of its colour and ſmell. The freſh herb bruiſed turns yellow in a few hours. The expreſſed juice becomes yellow and throws up bubbles in much the ſame time. Hemlock therefore ſhows a ſtrong diſpoſition to ferment. In order to prevent this fermentation, and conſequently to preſerve its virtues entire, the herb when intended for powder ſhould be dryed by a pretty briſk heat. Hence it is probable that intermediate degrees of heat

will

will produce powder of proportional efficacy. Hence ſeems to ariſe the neceſſary caution with regard to every freſh preparation. Hence a proper ſtandard for making both powder and extract ſeems equally wanted. I commonly direct the powder to be made as follows.

Take any quantity of the leaves, footſtalks and tender parts of the ſtems and branches of hemlock about the time that the firſt flowers are beginning to open; ſpread it upon a hearth before a good fire, in a room where in particular dogs or cats have no acceſs; and place a deep fender, or ſome ſuch contrivance, immediately behind the herb, in order to haſten the proceſs of drying. When the herb is ſufficiently friable, reduce it to a very fine powder. This when preſerved in phials well ſtopped will retain its efficacy for many months.

We

We now come to the method of making the maſs for pills. It is compounded of the powder and expreſſed juice evaporated to a certain conſiſtence. This inſpiſſated juice uſually called extract may ſtill retain the name: but it is to be obſerved, that I employ it only as an ingredient for the maſs of pills. I prefer this form not only as it keeps better, but alſo as it probably hath the virtues of the herb in greateſt perfection. A ſufficient quantity of powder ſhould be in readineſs previouſly to making the extract, the proceſs of which is as under.

The Extract of Hemlock.

When you are about to make this Extract the plant muſt be gathered over night; ſo that, by beginning very early next morning, the ſeveral proceſſes of inciſion, contuſion, expreſſion and evaporation may be finiſhed in one day for the reaſon already aſſigned.

The

The plant may be gathered wherever it is found healthy and rank: though thoſe places ſeem preferable where it naturally affects to grow.

The beſt age for cutting hemlock in order to make the extract, is that mentioned above; as then the herb is in full verdure, hath ſuffered little or nothing from the depredations of inſects, and its odour is manifeſtly ſtrongeſt.

Every part of the herb except the root and what may happen to be decayed ſhould be taken.

The ſubject thus collected is to be cut down and bruiſed exceedingly well in a wooden or marble mortar, and then put into hair-bags for expreſſion by five or ſix pounds at a time.

During

During the expreſſion, the firſt juice is opake, deeply green, and diſcovers little odour. But by degrees it becomes lighter in colour, till what runs laſt is of a pale yellowiſh green, and is diaphanous. And all along it ſeems to gain in ſmell what it loſes in colour.

As this is the caſe, the matter ſhould be drained of its juice as much as can be; ſince probably what comes laſt poſſeſſes in greateſt degree the medicinal qualities of the herb.

For this purpoſe, frequently altering the poſition of the bag in the preſs is recommended that no part of the herb may elude the utmoſt efforts of preſſure: and this proceſs ſhould be continued till the drops fall very ſlowly; when the herb on being taken out of the bag will appear quite dry.

This

This expreſſed juice all along depoſes in part a yellowiſh ſediment: but the whole is to be uſed without depuration.

To ſave time, as ſoon as you have got a ſufficient quantity of juice to fill your veſſel, you may proceed to evaporation; gradually adding more as you get it ready, and as the veſſel can hold it, till you ſhall have put in the whole.

The propereſt veſſel for the proceſs of evaporation is a broad glazed platter. This is to be put over a fire of charcoal in a fire-pan.

Before the juice becomes very hot it will run into clots, the green part forming the clots which float in a browniſh liquor.

As ſoon as thoſe clots are formed you ſhould begin to ſtir the liquor frequently with

with a bit of hemlock ſtalk; and keep up juſt ſuch a heat as makes them move about without driving them above the ſurface or occaſioning any ebullition.

Proceed in this manner till the inteſtine motion ceaſe from the matter having acquired more conſiſtence: and then it will be neceſſary to ſtir it conſtantly from the bottom. The rule for the degree of heat now is what raiſes a ſteam without bubbling or noiſe.

Go on thus, till, upon ſpreading the ſtuff to an equal thickneſs over the platter whilſt upon the fire, you can with a ſpoon ſcrape away any portion from the bottom while no effort is made by the contiguous maſs to fill up the vacuity.

You then have got extract of a ſufficient conſiſtence as an ingredient for your maſs of

of pills. Six pints of the juice generally yield one pound of this Extract.

The Hemlock-maſs for Pills.

Take of the extract of hemlock as above any quantity, and of the powder of hemlock one fifth part: mix them without addition.

This maſs is of a dark green colour, and retains the odour of the freſh plant. The quantity of powder here ſpecified makes the extract of a ſufficient conſiſtence for pills; eſpecially after it hath been kept for a few days to allow the powder time to abſorb the watery part of the maſs. And this proportion is the more eligible that a quantity of hemlock of the age above mentioned loſt by drying exactly four-fifths of its weight. Therefore this maſs, prepared with ſo gentle a heat, and containing the

ſame proportion of ſolid matter as the herb, may be allowed to poſſeſs the medical virtues of hemlock without diminution.

The maſs of pills thus prepared ſhould be put up in ſtone pots capable of containing about a pound weight each; and covered with paper cloſely tied down. In this manner I have known it kept above two years of a good conſiſtence and without diſcovering any tendency to corrupt. I mean however ſuch pots as are made in Staffordſhire and other parts of Britain; for the ware that is imported from Holland, under the name of Delfe, will not preſerve your compoſition if it were ever ſo well prepared.

It will however in general be a very uſeful precaution to look at this medicine from time to time: and if its ſmell begin to alter, which

which ſometimes happens, it ſhould immediately be taken out of the pot and beat in a mortar which will reſtore the natural odour, and of courſe put a ſtop to the fermentation which was then taking place, and which would otherwiſe have ended in mould, and in the total deſtruction of the maſs as a medicine. By this treatment repeated when neceſſary, which will not be oftener than every ſix or eight weeks at moſt, the hemlock-pills will hold good for any length of time.

Some have made an addition to the hemlock-maſs to counteract its fermentative quality without ever conſidering how far the medical virtues may depend on that ſame quality.

Soon after the above preparations were given to the Publick in the Appendix to the Treatiſe on the Kinkcough, the drying of

plants quicker than uſual was made general, and the hemlock-pills officinal by the Royal College of Edinburgh. Since that time the Royal College of London have alſo adopted this new method of drying plants.

From the whole that hath been ſaid relating to the hemlock-maſs for pills I ſhall ſum up what any perſon whether of the profeſſion or not can be a judge of; namely, that if it be not kept in glazed earthen pots; if not covered with paper, but with ſomething that impedes tranſpiration; if it ſtick to the fingers on forming it into pills; if the colour differ much from that above mentioned; if mouldy; or if, inſtead of what is natural, it hath an empyreumatical or other rank ſmell; I ſay, on any of thoſe accounts it ought to be rejected as a medicine by no means to be depended on.

I have

I have choſe to be ſo particular; becauſe hitherto it hath been generally the cuſtom to queſtion the virtues aſcribed to this excellent medicine without ever entertaining a doubt of its being faithfully prepared; though there be ſtill too much room for anxiety on this laſt head.

The hemlock is ſuppoſed to have deleterious qualities. For my part I have always found it an uſeful medicine; and ſo innocent that it can be ſafely given to an infant only a day or two old. I have even preſcribed eight pills thrice a day making in all a quarter of an ounce for a child eight years of age, and with the very beſt effects. The Peruvian bark, ſo much in vogue, now and then ſhortens life: but not an inſtance can be produced of a fatal effect from hemlock.

Magna eſt veritas et prævalebit.

I ſhall

I ſhall conclude with this very important remark, that, as the hemlock-maſs of pills is prepared two different ways, to wit, by placing the platter over the ſteam of boiling water according to the Edinburgh Diſpenſatory, and in the manner above directed, it will be neceſſary for the phyſician to know what mode has been adopted with regard to the preparation which he is going to preſcribe: becauſe what is made according to that Diſpenſatory has double the ſtrength of the other; though it is not a whit more ſucceſsful in practice when you come to the proper doſe of each. Without this precaution very alarming ſymptoms may indeed be produced; eſpecially if that officinal preparation ſhall happen to be preſcribed for a very young infant, a practice which I believe will be ſcarce ever warrantable.

FINIS.

Publiſhed,

By WILLIAM BUTTER, M. D.

Fellow of the Royal College of Phyſicians and Member of the Medical Society, both of Edinburgh.

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